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Editorial

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Two hundred members of the Association attended the meeting at Chicago on March 29-30. A majority of these came from the states nearest Chicago, but there were also many delegates from the South. The meeting was in every respect a success. The papers read were interesting and suggestive, and once more demonstrated the wisdom of the plan of making up the programme by special invitation. This was the recommendation of the first programme committee and that it will remain the settled policy of the Association may now be assumed. For the next programme two new features have been suggested which seem to us to carry with them decided advantages. The first of these is that the printed programme shall contain not only the title of each paper and the name of its author, but also a brief statement of the thesis or argument that is to be presented; the second recommendation is that the programme committee shall appoint one or two members of the Association to lead the discussion of each paper. These two provisions will strengthen our meetings at their weakest point. In the three meetings that we have held there has been, except in a comparatively small number of cases, little or no discussion. The proposed arrangement entails a cutting-down of the number of papers, and that too seems to us desirable.

Summaries of the papers read will be printed in the next number of the *Journal*. The programme as a whole was reasonably representative of the various aspects of classical study, with the notable exception, however, of ancient history. The proportion of papers of a purely literary type was not as large as it might have been, but the soundness of the quality made up for the defect in quantity, and

Professor Slaughter's essay demonstrated effectively that even so oft-treated a theme as Horace's style was still open to new points of view. Principal Peterson also, in his address on "The Classics and Modern Life," made a plea for a more liberal study of Greek literature. Commenting on the changed conditions under which the study of the classics must be carried on at the present time, he pointed out the necessity of reducing the amount of time devoted to the details of Greek grammar and composition, and of directing the attention of students to the content of the literature. Dr. Peterson was not in favor of mitigating the severity of the instruction in Latin grammar, but in some of the pedagogical papers a tendency along these lines was manifest. More than one speaker seemed inclined to forego at least a part of the discipline in Latin syntax in order to make room for a systematic study of the various topics that occur in the texts read in the schools.

While the meeting lacked the splendor of a Shaw banquet, the two luncheons provided by the University of Chicago, and the reception and smoker on Friday evening, gave the members an opportunity of renewing old acquaintance. That the Association is doing the work expected of it in bringing its members in touch with one another was apparent. Everyone seemed to know everyone else, and the meeting was more like a reunion of friends than an assembly of delegates. Every year will add to the attractiveness of this side of the organization.

The Secretary-Treasurer's report showed that the finances of the Association are in a highly satisfactory condition. The list of members in good standing now contains 1,050 names. The prospects in the different states, as described by the Vice-Presidents who attended the meeting, indicate the probability of a substantial increase during the current year. Classical teachers everywhere are awaking to the professional and personal advantages of membership in the Association. The officers elected were: President, Professor Edward Capps, University of Chicago; First Vice-President, Professor Walter Denison, University of Michigan; Secretary-Treasurer, Professor B. L. D'Ooge, Michigan State Normal College, Ypsilanti; member of the Executive Committee, Professor J. W. Hullihen, Grant University, Chattanooga, Tenn. The next annual meeting is to be held in Nashville, Tenn., in April, 1908.